



Kern County Network for Children

Our Children. Our Community.

A solid orange horizontal bar at the bottom of the page.

Est. 2008

The Dream Center, named by the founding foster youth who helped design service delivery, is Kern County's only one-stop resource center for current and former foster youth up to the age of 25.



Did you know?

According to Research studies, statewide:

- Over 1/3 of foster youth earn **neither a high school diploma or GED**
- **Fewer** than 1/2 **were employed** 12 to 18 months after aging out
- 1/3 who age out **evidence mental health problems** (PTSD, substance abuse, major depression)
- About 1/4 **will be incarcerated** within the 1st 2 years after they leave the system
- Almost 1/4 **reported to be homeless** at least once since leaving the system
- Are **least likely to graduate from college.**

Like all youth, their brains are developing until age 25.

Dream Center Youth



- Streets are dangerous
- Victimized & Re-Traumatized
- Drug abuse is a way to cope
- Lack of proper clothing
- Basic needs are not met
- Complex Trauma
- Toxic Stress

Everything in between



- Enrolled in school & working
- Enrolled in school & homeless
- Working & homeless
- Job training program & homeless

Trivia

If you have \$0 income how much do you think you are eligible for in Food Stamps per month?

Answer: \$192

Let's Do the Math

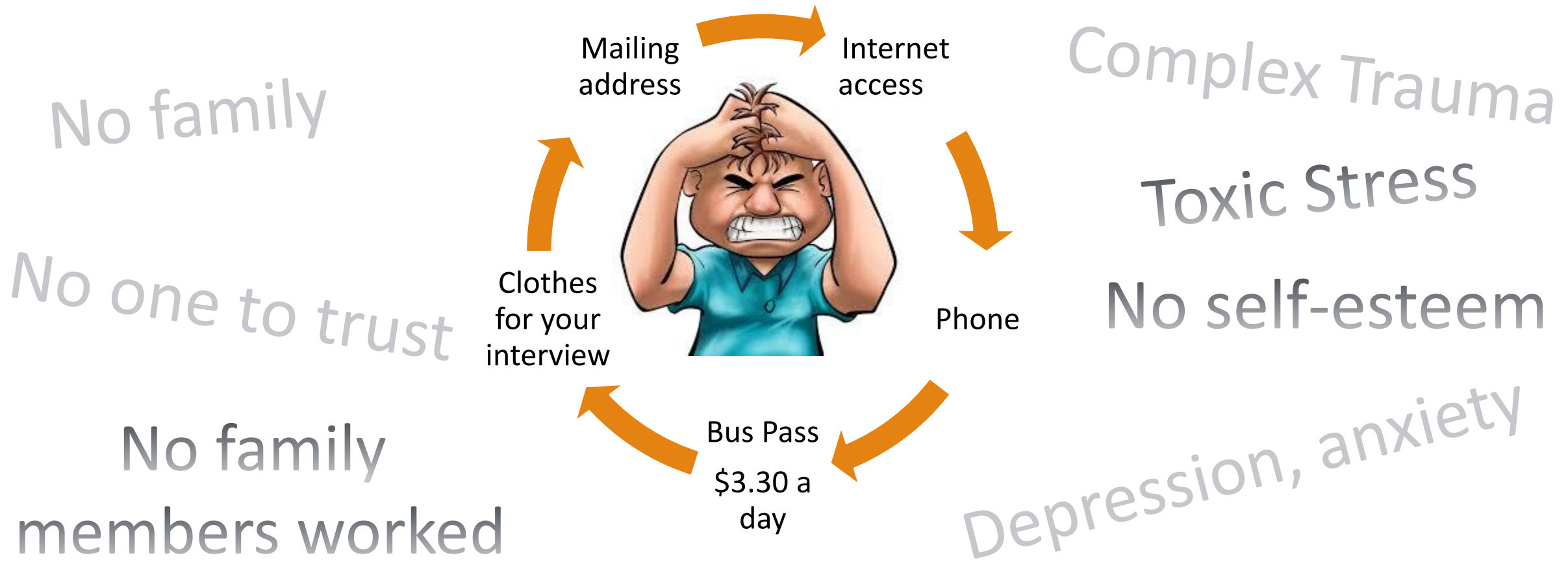
\$192 a month x 12 months = \$2,305 a year

365 days a year x 3 meals a day = 1,095 meals a year

CalFresh/Food Stamps provides 47¢ per meal.



Want a job?



Get a job?



The #1 thing we do...



1801 19th Street (Resource Center)

Monday – Friday
8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.



Welcome

An average of **200** youth visit each week.

751 youth visited during FY 16-17

Some are:

- in high school/college
- in job training programs
- working
- homeless
- all of the above.



Who Qualifies?

Youth under the age of 25, who spent at least one day at any point in their life, in out of home care through the Child Welfare or Probation Systems.



FREE!

- Clothes
- Shoes
- Children's clothing and toys
- Baby items
- Household items
- Resource information



Job Search & Study Area

Help with:

- Resumes
- Tutoring
- College enrollment
- Job leads
- Vocational training
- Bus passes for interviews and/or first month of work
- Printers and copy machine



What's Up & How can we help?

Our service menu is designed to empower youth to ask for what they need:

- Hygiene items
- School supplies
- Cleaning supplies
- Clothing
- Phone, copier or fax
- Snack bags or emergency food
- Mailing address



Workshops

- Life Skills
- Health Education
- Vocational Training Programs
- Leadership Program
- Behavioral health groups



Dream Team Members @ 1801

- CalFresh & MediCal Technician
- AB 12 & ILP Social Workers
- Probation Officer
- Employers Training Resource
- KCNC staff



Connecting

- Peers
- Supportive adults
- Safe environment
- Birthday celebrations
- Holiday celebrations



Food

Typically:

- Ice water
- Pastry or bars of some sort
- Donated food
- Snack bags “to go”



Wellness Services

Public Health Nurse

- Medical referrals
- Car seat & safe sleep information
- Infant weight & measurements
- Health education
- Information & referral services



Counseling & Substance Abuse Treatment



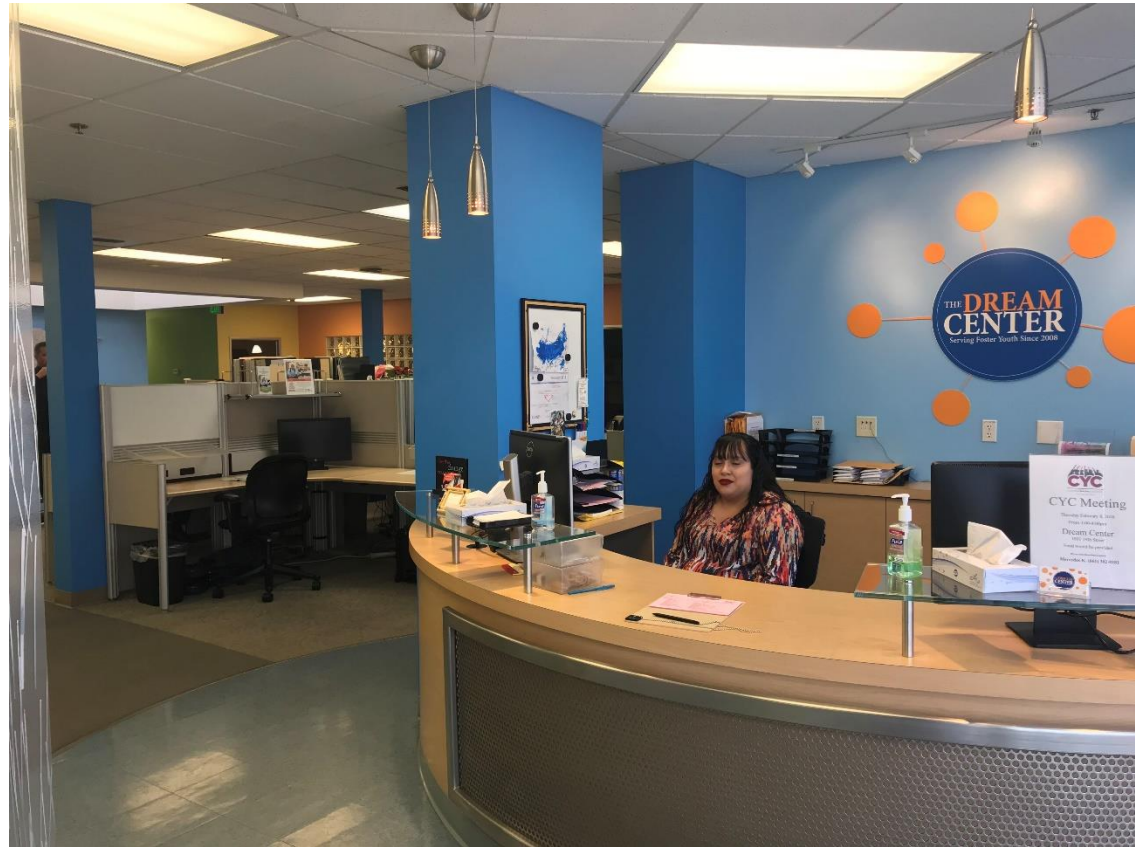
Showers & Laundry



1807 19th Street
(Collaborative Center
next door)



Collaborative Center



Cooking & Nutrition Classes



So, how
does it
work?

Dream Team Agencies



ILP, AB 12, CalFresh & Medi-Cal



Counseling, Case Management & Substance Abuse Treatment



Medical Information, Referrals, & Services



Educational Advocacy & Support



Supportive services, basic need items, advocacy, and tax donations



Housing Vouchers



AB 12, ILP & Adult Supervision



Vocational Training & Employment Services



Dream Team Agencies





Kern County Department of Human Services & Dream Center Collaboration

- Kern County DHS staff stationed at the Dream Center include:
 - AB12 Unit- 5 Social Workers and 1 Supervisor
 - ILP Unit-5 Social Workers and 1 Supervisor
 - Foster Care Aide/Human Service Technician-1
 - Office Services Technician/Receptionist-1
 - Foster Care Ombudsman/Program Director- 3 X's a week
 - Program Specialist over AB12/ ILP-2 X's a week



Extended Foster Care/ AB12 @ the Dream Center

AB12 Social Workers provide our TAY youth (ages 18 to 21) support and encouragement PLUS....

- Monitor the youth's living situation
- Ensure youth's participation in activity necessary to maintain AB12 eligibility
- Provides youth with referrals to necessary services (including mental health, education services, food, clothing housing assistance)
- Access funds to assist struggling youth
- And do many many other things.....



Independent Living Program @ the Dream Center

ILP social workers offer our youth (ages 16 to 21) encouragement and support PLUS...

- Workshops/ Classes on topics such as budgeting/money matters, cooking, health & sex ed, housing, job readiness
- Incentives for participating in Classes/ ILP activities
- Issue Bus Passes
- Complete the TILP & Ansell Casey Assessment
- Coordinate Special Events for youth such as ILP Graduation and Independent City
- And do many, many other things.....



Specialized Services by KCDHS Staff @ the Dream Center

- Commercially Sexually Exploited Child (CSEC) Social Worker stationed at the Resource Center
- Emancipated Youth Social Worker stationed at the Resource Center-Contact for AB12 Re-Entries
- Housing Specialist at Collaborative Center (next door)
- HST provides support to youth with Food Stamps and Medi-Cal apps.
- Social Worker of the Day @ the Resource Center
- Supervisor of the Day @ the Resource Center



Initial Challenges/Successful Outcomes

- Initial Resistance to Change (concerns from parking to confidentiality)
- Amendments to Processes and Procedures Necessary
- New Approach to the same work

However.....

- Resources at our fingertips!!!
- We were all united by a shared goal to help our TAY youth.
- Ultimately..... It has been successful for the youth and for DHS staff!!!





BEHAVIORAL
HEALTH & RECOVERY
SERVICES

TAY Services

Medical Certified Site

- Case Management
- Substance Abuse Services
- Individual Therapy
- Crisis Services
- Assessments (can be done same day)
- Psychiatric Evaluations/Med Management
- TAY Career Development Program
- TAY after-hours line (24/7 services)



Kern BHRS TAY Team

Prevention & Early Intervention:

- TAY Career Development Program
- Spoken Word and Visual Arts Groups
- Dual Recovery Anonymous group lead by the youth

Phases for Treatment

Phase 1

- Assisting youth to meet basic needs
 - Obtaining necessary identification cards and SSN
 - Creating a proper treatment plan for success
 - Locating a primary care physician for future medical needs

Phase 2

- Developing specialized life skills
 - Budgeting and time management
 - Vocational skills: resumes, mock interviews, job leads
 - Educational skills: Enrolling for classes, financial aid, attendance

Phase 3

- Assess Youth for future mental health needs
 - May transition to an adult team/higher level of care facility
 - Continue to use life skills learned on their own



ANY
QUESTIONS
?

Contact Us

Miriam Ocampo,
Program Specialist
AB 12/ILP
ocampom@kerndhs.org
(661) 631-6402 &
(661) 636-4965



Brenda Story,
Supervisor
Transitional Age Youth Program
BStory@kernbhrs.org
(661) 868-8310



Jayme Stuart,
Child & Family Services Coordinator
The Dream Center
jastuart@kern.org
(661) 636-4949

